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Also, of THE VARIOUS HOUSE-PLANS DERIVED FROM THIS WORK.

MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN, AND THE COAST OF CHINA.

Also, THE NEW CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE IN HONGKONG.

besides other local information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this work in every way valuable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

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On August 31st, at Hongkong, Mrs. B. DUNN, of a daughter.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1874.

Is the last number of the *Overland Trade Report* a suggestion is thrown out of the only plan by which we can hope to do away with the constantly recurring difficulty in regard to the transit dues—a difficulty which, there is no question, stands most seriously in the way of the development of our trade in these parts. Of late years, it is true, we have not heard so much complaint upon this subject as formerly, chiefly because the revision of the treaty was thought to be in abeyance, not abandoned—and there was some chance that the matter would be adjudged when the revision was finally settled upon. This measure now seems unfortunately to be indefinitely postponed, and under the circumstances there is very little chance of the transit dues question being taken up unless attention be called to it, and some practical remedy suggested.

The means of putting an end to existing obstructions on the part of the local officials proposed in the *Trade Report* are in favour of instituting some system of collecting these dues which will secure the local revenue to the provincial officials, in some way the same way as the Inspectorate of Maritime Customs has secured the revenue on imports and exports to the Peking Government. Were this possible, there can be little doubt that the opposition on the part of the local authorities would be largely diminished—and it is this opposition which has been mainly at the bottom of the difficulties which we have hitherto experienced.

There are no doubt several plans by which the end in view might be attained, if the Chinese Authorities could only be brought to recognise the advantage which they would gain by such a concession as is demanded. There is no question but they would find it to their benefit in a directly fiscal point of view to reduce the taxes in transit upon goods to a minimum rate—as the augmentation of trade would more than compensate for the *pro rata* reduction of the taxes. This has been proved, more to the astonishment of some of the local officials, on the removal of some of the larger barriers, for example the celebrated Wei-quan barrier near Canton—and, if once the Provincial Authorities could be brought to realize the fact, the opposition so long made to inland trade would be removed. There is very little doubt that under a proper system of regulation, the concession of the right to foreigners to trade at the large marts in the interior might prove as lucrative to the Provincial Authorities as the concession of the right to trade at the ports has already proved to the Central Government at Peking.

The suggestion was made long ago that some such plan as this might be matured for the extension of the functions of the Inspectorate of Customs, and upon the whole, this plan would seem to be the best that could be resorted to. There has hitherto been a certain jealousy of the increasing powers of the Customs, but this feeling, never very well founded, has of late years been upon the decrease, and it would probably not stand in the way of the service of the Inspectorate of Customs being made available in the matter.

The subject is one with which Mr. HARRIS is thoroughly conversant, and if he could find a solution of the difficulty he would certainly deserve the gratitude of the foreign merchants concerned in the China trade, and also of his immediate employers, the Chinese officials, as there is no question that an adjustment of the irregular levies now made would not only greatly facilitate trade, but would also have the effect of largely increasing both the Provincial and Imperial Revenues in China.

The three-masted schooner, *Wm. Phillips*, sailed from Boston on 3rd June, for this port.

We learn that the steamer *Manila* fell in with the *Glencairn*, and was disabled by the loss of several blades of her propeller, and towed into Aden. This delayed the *Manila* several days, and caused her to make rather a long passage from Bombay to London. We understand that she earned \$1350 by towing the *Glencairn*.

We hear that Mr. Mundy has identified the gold and silver coins taken from him by the pirates, and several of the gold ornaments found on the prisoner in custody have been identified by the same person. We understand that the man in custody refused to eat anything until yesterday morning.

We give, further on, the more interesting portions of the debate in the House of Lords with reference to the annexation of the Fiji Islands, to which our correspondent referred in his letter, published yesterday. Earl Granville and the Earl of Kimberley, who spoke on the subject, have both left the office of Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Earl of Kimberley, who introduced the subject, is the present Secretary.

Considering that \$5000 reward has been offered for the apprehension of the pirates in the *Spark* tragedy, we really think some inducement should be held out to the Chinese Police Force to encourage them to apprehend some of them who have been caught, as it is believed by many that they came to Hongkong. Of course, the Chinese will not accept of a reward when they know that they will be sent to prison, but they will accept of a reward when they know that they will be sent to prison.

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the hon. member. He had to inform him that, after investigation, the Attorney-General had informed them that Lamna did not belong to the colony. By the treaty of Nanking, the colony was ceded to the British, and the British had no right to claim the colony.

Mr. ROBERTS and his dependents. The COLONIAL SECRETARY said that he had no jurisdiction whatever over the Lamna. With reference to the treaty of Nanking, he said that the British had no right to claim the colony.

Mr. ROBERTS said that he was aware of the fact that the Lamna was not a British subject, and that he was not a British subject.

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